

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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DEPT PLS PASS FSC, COAST GUARD, OTP, MARAD, NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, IT

SUBJECT: MARITIME SATELLITE TALKS IN ROME

1. TALKS WITH GOI WERE HELD AT MFA WITH LARGEST DELEGATION U.S. TEAM HAS MET TO DATE. GOI REPRESENTATIVES WERE FROM SEVERAL MINISTRIES AND BUREAUS, AND FROM TELESPIAZIO WHICH HAD BEEN MOST ACTIVE ITALIAN PARTICIPANT IN POE, AND IN THIS MEETING GAVE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF GREATER FAMILIARITY WITH SUBJECT OF MARITIME SATELLITES THAN OTHER GOI REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.

2. IN OPENING REMARKS, GOI DELEGATION LEADER, FERRARI (MFA), STATED THAT GOVERNMENT WAS IN PRELIMINARY STAGES OF STUDYING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL FACTORS RELATING TO INMARSAT AND HAD NOT YET FORMED ITS POSITION.

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HE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT IT WAS NOT ONLY A

MATTER OF COORDINATING AN INMARSAT POSITION WITHING GOI, BUT ALSO IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THROUGH CEPT AND ESRO. THE IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATION WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THROUGH CEPT, WAS REPEATED IN COURSE OF MEETING.

3. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. PRESENTATION, GOI STATED IT WAS PLEASED WITH EVIDENCE OF U.S. INTEREST PARTICIPATE IN INMARSAT PROVIDED U.S. NEEDS RE DESIGNATED ENTITY COULD BE ACCOMMODATED. IT MUST STUDY U.S. TWO-AGREEMENT PROPOSAL BEFORE RESPONDING TO U.S., AND HERE AGAIN IT MUST CONSULT AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

4. THERE WAS SOME GOI GENERAL QUESTIONING OF TWO-AGREEMENT SOLUTION REGARDING WHERE BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY RESIDED IN ORGANIZATION; AND GOI TREASURY REPRESENTATIVE HAD QUESTIONS ON SYSTEM COST, WHEN INITIAL CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS EXPECTED, ETC. GOI REPS NOTED ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS AND SEEMED CONCERNED ABOUT CAPITAL COSTS TO GOI. THERE WAS LENGTHY EXCHANGE ON INMARSAT PROCUREMENT POLICY, AND U.S. GAVE FULL EXPLANATION ON HOW U.S. ALTERNATIVE PROVIDES FOR LOWEST SYSTEM COST. GOI REPRESENTATIVES SEEMED TO LISTEN TO THIS QUITE ATTENTIVELY, BUT ONCE AGAIN, AS ON ALL OTHER MATTERS, GOI STATED IT HAD NOT YET FORMED A POSITION.

5. GOI DID ASK FOR RUNDOWN OF REACTIONS OF OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TO U.S. TEAM VISIT. U.S. RESPONDED BY GIVING BRIEF SUMMARY AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT GOI WOULD FIND IT BALANCED AND GENERALLY IN ACCORD WITH WHAT GOI WOULD HEAR IN CONSULTATIONS WITH ITS EUROPEAN FRIENDS. U.S. RESPONSE ALSO TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON SOVIET ATTITUDE AND THAT USSR PROPOSED FURTHER TALKS WITH U.S. PRIOR TO LONDON, AND THAT U.S. HAD AGREED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO TALKS. HOWEVER, U.S. DID NOT INDICATE WHEN TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE. IN REQUESTING RUNDOWN OF TALKS WITH OTHER EUROPEANS GOI INCLUDED SPECIFIC INTEREST IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD PROCUREMENT POLICY.

6. GOI WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY RESPONSIVE TO SERIES OF U.S. QUESTIONS SUCH AS EXPECTATIONS OF

LONDON CONFERENCE, DISTRESS/SAFETY/NAVIGATION,
CHARGES FOR INMARSAT MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS;
REITERATING THAT ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS MUST
BE REVIEWED AND STUDIED. THEY WERE A LITTLE
MORE RESPONSIVE REGARDING QUESTION ON MARITIME
SATELLITE USE BY SHIPS IN PORT SAYING THAT THEY
WERE FAVORABLY DISPOSED, EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT
REQUIRE NEW LEGISLATION TO PERMIT IT. HOWEVER,
GOI ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION ENDED WITH NEED TO
CONSULT WITHIN CEPT.

7. THUS STRONG IMPRESSION TAKEN FROM TALKS IS
THAT MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE WITHIN GOI,
AND THAT ITS FINAL POSITION WILL BE GREATLY IN-
FLUENCED BY VIEWS OF OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.
U.S. TEAM RECEIVED GENERAL AND INFORMAL IMPRES-
SION THAT GOI HAS NOT SORTED OUT WHICH ELEMENTS
OF GOI WILL HAVE FINAL DECISION AND HOW GOI
WILL PARTICIPATE IN INMARSAT.
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